

Meeting Minutes

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee

October 3, 2013 • Department of Public Works • Conference Room, 4:30 PM

Attending: John Root, Craig Goff, Arnie Alper, Cristina Cox Fernandes, Laurel Dickey, Susan Waite

- Approve August & September 2013 minutes – minutes approved for both months unanimously.
- Approve letter to School Committee re: compost – Guilford looked at the letter and suggested that we either wait until we have concrete costs and plans concerning a line item or write the letter to inform them that the state mandate is coming and encouraging them to position themselves to meet the requirements. DEP does not yet have a guidance document.
- Create action plan for 1/1/14 EPS ban implementation – (skipped agenda item)
- PAYT explanation & report from DPW meeting with haulers – Susan W. shared various web-based resources that provide information about PAYT systems. Guilford, Steve and Susan met with haulers that now provide residential service in Amherst: Duseau Trucking (Rich), Alternative Recycling (Patrick), and Amherst Trucking (Rich). They were asked for input concerning curbside composting and a general move towards zero waste. The haulers want to work with Amherst, but caution that it would require significant changes, and won't happen overnight. One hauler has already begun curbside compost collection on a small scale. The residential haulers feel they are following Amherst recycling regulations, but that the big commercial haulers – who collect from multi-family buildings and businesses – are not, and if zero waste is the Committee's goal, compliance of existing waste stream reduction requirements should be addressed before new requirements are added. At this time the recycling coordinator position does not attend to compliance issues, but it *could* (other projects would need to be offloaded or hours increased). Should we ask Town Meeting to allocate more resources to address this? Susan explained that at the request of the Safe and Healthy Neighborhood initiative an enforcement officer will be hired, and it is her understanding that (s)he will have the authority to enforce all Town bylaws. The residential haulers feel that education, training, and enforcement would require significant attention if curbside composting was pursued. The haulers also said that Amherst has a very good residential recycling rate.
- Create action plan for pilot PAYT composting program – Susan W. spoke with Cam at Amend Organics. He said that while participation has been

disappointing, he is very pleased with the quality of the compost and is working well with transfer station staff. He would like to continue the program. The DPW will create a Memo of Understanding with him. The bag company has offered to help publicize the program. Arnie wondered if compost could be collected somewhere other than the Transfer Station, so that stickers would not be needed. Discussion about an action plan was deferred until after conversations about Pay-as-you-throw and the Transfer Station.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 72 hours prior to the meeting - None
- New business & news updates - None